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Dear Mr. Dulles:

A Department of Defense working group under the leadership of Mr. Paul Dipple is preparing a briefing on Arctic research and development to be presented to the Armed Forces Policy Council. The purpose of the briefing is to bring about a redesignation of the Arctic as a strategic area and an assignment of sufficient funds and priorities so that our Arctic R&D work can progress.

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It is requested that the Central Intelligence Agency provide Dr. Dipple's group with information regarding Soviet activity and capability in the Arctic. Preliminary discussions have been held with [redacted] of the Office of Scientific Intelligence but it is felt that the information required goes beyond the scope of her office. Specifically required are:

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1. Estimates of the total percentage of the GNP and the total manpower devoted to Arctic activities by the Soviet Union. Actual numbers of dollars equivalent and personnel would be helpful.

2. Estimates as to what percentage of this effort in the Arctic can be considered to be research and development. These estimates should include both money and manpower.

3. A brief description of the system of logistic support provided for the maintenance of the Soviet-occupied ice islands in the Arctic basin and also the R&D installations on the Arctic coast. This should indicate cost, number of planes, number of ships and some indication of personnel, if possible.

4. An indication of the magnitude and degree of success of the effort to extend the length of the operating season for the Northern Sea Route along the Arctic coast of the U.S.S.R. This should indicate the length of season during which it is now possible to navigate the Northern Sea Route, the number of ice-breakers involved, plans for new ice-breakers, etc.

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5. An indication of the building associated with the Northern Sea Route in terms of (a) research facilities, (b) increase of population (c) size and nature of larger centers of population, and (d) others which become apparent such as rail, port facilities, etc.

6. An indication of the extent that airfields are developed, with numbers, type and range of quality involved particularly in comparison to our airfield complex in the Arctic.

It is requested that this information be furnished at the earliest possible date and, if possible, in graphic form; Dr. Hiple's group is aiming for a May 15 deadline. Because of the press of time and in anticipation of your approval of this request, Mr. Willis B. Foster of my Office of Guidance will open informal negotiations with [redacted] chairman of your Ad Hoc Arctic Committee.

Sincerely yours,

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Paul D. Foote

Mr. Allen W. Dulles
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
[illegible] E. St., N.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

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